

*Author "Nuisances Removed" (Scotland)
1856*
Dr Bunt SOCIAL
Goswiler.

AND

SANITARY REFORM, &c.;

WITH

SOME FACTS RELATIVE TO THE MISERABLE STATE OF
THESE MATTERS,

IN

CITIES AND TOWNS IN SCOTLAND, AND LOCAL
DISTRICTS, &c.

BY

A WRITER TO THE SIGNET;

AUTHOR OF PAPERS "ON SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNTRY
DISTRICTS IN SCOTLAND."

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

SOCIAL AND SANITARY REFORM,

&c., &c.

CASE here briefly introduced TO THE PUBLIC, as generally existing, with Facts and Comments thereon, and Sketch Observations explanatory of the "Nuisance Removal (Scotland) Act, 1856," how first brought into Parliament, Bill therefor altered at, or after Second Reading, and how cooked or tried to be managed as yet by certain parties acting under evil old-standing customs here pointed at—little if anything satisfactory being done under said Act, for placing matters on a safe footing.

"To improve the sanitary condition of Cities and Towns is a duty which society owes to itself, and which has been too long overlooked from its intimate connection not only with the economic, but with the social and moral influences which cleanliness with a pure atmosphere exercises."—*W. Fothergill Cooke, Esq., on Utilisation of Sewage of Towns, &c., January, 1857.*

"When I look at duties of our own at home much neglected, at the Poor Law Returns, and find that in 1856, there were 800,000 persons receiving Parochial Relief,—when I see in every town disease very frequent in its visitation—if not permanent, known to be preventable, and which a little examination of science would remove,—when I find our great London Hospitals and others, never free from cases in which sheer starvation has been the predisposing cause of disease—when I remember how unsatisfactory is the Prison reformation of our criminals—how imperfect the provision for Education amongst the people everywhere—when I think of the millions of acres at home, and the square miles of land in the colonies, which only require energy and talent to render fertile—when I reflect that

we have colonies which at no distant time will throw into the shade the worn-out monarchies of Europe—when I see all these things, and consider the international interference denounced by so many, I cannot but think of the madness and folly of prying and peeping into our neighbours' affairs abroad, offering advice which is seldom taken, and uttering threats which, somehow or other, we do not execute, if we at all attempt in due time.”—*Lord Stanley, at King's Lynn Election. March, 1857.*

“It is stated by many who have investigated the subject of the social and sanitary state of our country, that our labouring population, both agricultural and manufacturing, are as much below the same class in England in respect to the health, comfort, and the cleanliness of their dwellings, as they are above them in point of education and intelligence.”—*Wm. Craig, Esq., of Brechin, referring chiefly to the Poor and Poor-Laws in Scotland.*

See also, to the same effect as above, the sentiments of EARL DERBY LORD BROUGHAM, and others, at recent public Reformatory and other meetings in Manchester and elsewhere, and M.P.'s in Scotland, speaking of measures of 1856-57.

IT would not be a difficult matter to show at greater length than herein the seeming attention, in words, paid to the discussion of Social and Sanitary matters by public men, in these alleged progressing times; but the fruit available thereby bears a small portion, indeed, of beneficial results, to the discerning eye, of the really honest, candid, social and sanitary reformer, looking to the true interests of the public—the health and comfort of our extended population. We shall first speak of the state of the law regarding sanitary matters, under the recent much required Act 19th and 20th Victoria, cap. 103,—seemingly not regarded as yet in many places, towns, and villages, if at all in some Highland burghs and districts,—entitled, “An Act to make better provision for the removal of nuisances, “regulation of lodging-houses, and health of towns in Scotland,” which received the Royal assent on 29th July, 1856, and has now come into operation as the law of the land, and been acted on where civilised, social, clean places abound: alas! too few in Scotland, if truth can be told in safety. It consists of twenty-six printed pages, and was brought into Parliament by Mr. Moncrieff, the Liberal Lord Advocate, M.P. for Leith, and Viscount Dunearn, the same for Forfarshire—the latter, when he represented one of the seats for Bath some years ago, having got the window taxes abolished. Their intentions in regard to right social and sanitary improvements—matters of the utmost importance for the health and well-being of society—may, we presume, be held as sincere, though far too little doing, we submit from facts that cannot be disputed.

These subjects have hitherto been much overlooked and neglected everywhere in Scotland, to which our observations are now meant to apply ; but they are at the present time, we are glad to say, captivating the attention of some leading public men—princes, noblemen, and gentlemen ; and surely we are at liberty to take them up for honest investigation, after minute enquiry, when so many engaged with more paying occupations—the efforts of searching men to do good being too often spurned by stupid people who may be do not know better ? Some think these Right Honourable Members of the Legislature should perhaps be more on their guard, if they really stand in an independent position, against the flattery and wiles of Burgh Magistrates and their followers, the head, in a limited sense, of town constituencies, in these alleged reform times—many of them, at least in the provinces, selfish, purse-proud, ignorant creatures, exercising power on their own “pure friendship-craft” plans, relying more on their wealth and official importance, than as exercising powers, &c., for the public good and safety of all. We are forced to say this much in the outset of this introductory paper, considering the contradiction and opposition we have hitherto met with in investigating, in some respects, such a painful, uncared-for subject, at least by some of these headless worthies and men called Police Commissioners ; and once for all, it may be understood this the true cause of the apparent harshness of some of our *bona fide* honest expressions against the present system of unpaid, which really means, as in use in many places, irresponsible civic rule—surely, however, still an open question admitting of amendment ?

It may be asked here, as sometimes put elsewhere, why do men aspire to public civic offices, or Board trusts, when they do not intend to perform the duties, or see what embraced therein rightly done—where the honour to be obtained thereby, in a legitimate way, by any man, if he means only in an alleged “gratuitous way to figure in the world,” say at the serious loss of the community. As servants, sworn to be faithful to their public trusts, they are bound properly to account to others whether they agree to act gratuitously or otherwise.

But to proceed with our case. The above Act narrates that “the Nuisance Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, 1848,” amended by “the Diseases Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, 1849,” had been found defective, originating from cholera, epidemic fever diseases, ascertained by undoubted evidence, to be engendered or aggravated by long standing, dirty customs, filth and dung accumulations in towns and other districts ; therefore this Act was urgent and neces-

sary, to repeal certain Acts so far as related to Scotland, and to substitute other provisions more effectual, for Scotland alone. It contains *inter alia*, minute provision—1st, for removal of nuisances; 2d, for prevention or mitigation of diseases; 3d, for regulation of common lodging-houses; 4th, for enforcing legal and other procedure under Act; and 5th, amendment in the Act 13th and 14th Vict., cap. 33, 15th July, 1850 (hitherto also disregarded, less or more, by careless authorities), entitled, “An Act to make more effectual provision for regulating the police of towns and populous places in Scotland, and for paving, draining, cleaning, lighting, and improving the same.” This act in operation in Ayr, in a small way!

It provides, in part first, that in places within the jurisdiction of any Town Council, and not subject to other jurisdictions, that the Town Council shall be the “local authority” to appoint an Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances and Common Lodging-houses, &c.; and if no Inspector’s appointed, the “local authority” shall in all cases in which any duty is laid on them by this Act, appoint some person where the same shall be necessary, to perform such duty. And in places within the jurisdiction of Police Commissioners, or Trustees exercising the functions of Police Commissioners under any general or local Act, the Police Commissioners or Trustees, or of one or other of them, the Board of Supervision at Edinburgh, for the relief of poor in Scotland, shall, on the application of either of these bodies, or of the Parochial Board, determine whether the Town Council or the Police Commissioners or Trustees, as the case may be, or the Parochial Board, shall be the “local authority;”—so that social sanitary operations, as specially laid down in part first—the removal of nuisances,—from section 8 to 21 inclusive—may not be lightly performed, if not totally disregarded, so far as the safety of the public health is concerned, as in many places hitherto, under the common law protracting process, rendering this operative summary Act absolutely necessary; if really meant to be effectual, to prevent,—from any cause whatever,—misrule or local jobbing, or burking of the public interest—the word nuisance, for instance, meaning—section 8—“any accumulation or deposit within 50 yards of any dwelling-house, within the limits of any Burgh, offensive or injurious to health.” Powers are also given for inspecting nuisances in private premises and houses, wherever situated, and in having all nuisances, manure pits, swine, and other dirty animals removed, summarily, when required (instead of cleaned once a year or so as formerly, as hereinafter alluded to), dung sold, penalties exacted for sale or exposure of unwholesome

meat, fish, fruit, and vegetables, under *bona fide* impartial independent Inspectors in these advanced times (Meal and other things being regulated by other Acts, of which, for behoof of all honest parties, including the poor, loudly complaining of civic inattention, from various causes, regarding weights and measures, and adulterated food and drink, under partial old burgh abuses, more will require to be stated in after papers).

In part second—from section 22 to 30, inclusive—for prevention or mitigation of diseases, provision is made for speedy interment of dead, house to house visitation, to see that dwelling-places of every description kept clean and well ventilated, and not over-crowded, so as to be dangerous to health; with power to appoint Medical Officers and Clerks to direct prosecutions for violating regulations.

In part third—from section 31 to 42, inclusive—for regulation of common lodging-houses, special directions for same are inserted, that after the expiration of one month after the passing of the Act, no lodger to be received in a common lodging-house till it has been inspected and registered—a proper register to be kept by competent parties; also, proper sederunt books to be kept, and reports of rules and regulations for the approval of Government Secretaries, to be drawn out in proper business-like form.

And in part fourth—from section 43 to 56—common sewers and sufficient drains—awaiting hitherto altogether, in many towns and villages—are to be put down, streets properly paved and flagged; sewer and other rates to be exacted and enforced;—the true meaning of all these careful provisions undoubtedly being understood, by considerate men, to have cities and towns kept clean and healthy, —which is denied to be the case at present, as well known to the honest public and the press,—under real *bona fide*, not sham Inspectors, on shabby pay, the creatures, less or more, of nominal, hitherto “gratuitous figure in the world authorities;” not only in their houses, streets, and pavements, but in their back premises, all nuisances, dunghills, ashpits, and offensive places in towns, in or about harbour docks, to be summarily removed,—which could not be so easily done as before, under the said common-law process,—more necessary accommodation of a certain nature provided, rightly placed and cleaned, urinary stances put down,—and, in short, all known nuisances done away with, regulations made and fines exacted by authorities,—if really in earnest to undertake honest duty,—for personal and other nuisances; it being plain that looking at past cholera times, had the state of our towns been sufficiently safe and

clean, these salutary regulations having no reference to political offices, such as Dean-of-Guildships,—said Deans, in many instances, pretending to look after towns and buildings, &c., in their safe and social state,—which, having other things on hand,—seldom if ever rightly done, as in former times,—would never have been put on the statute book.

It seems right to make these specific explanations and averments. We submit them, and other after-statements, as digged for from sufficient evidence,—it being necessary to call public attention thereto—many, very many, complaints of cleaning rates, police sham-paving, and other taxes, heavy salaries and accounts to men and lawyers, as showing what done in some places and what not done in others; and, in order to silence the selfish clamour of those afraid of more taxes wanting little, if anything done, after more than a year's delay, under this proper act, and seemingly more afraid of their cash or that of their friends, or as interfering with their property and business than the health of the public,—the filthy unclean houses and dens of the wretched, seldom visited except by relations, doctors, ministers, and missionaries,—often, for many reasons, afraid to speak out,—spreading disease among all. We select a few cities and towns where the Act of Parliament is being enforced in an earnest way, and disregarded less or more in some parts, if not altogether, by thoughtless, if not careless men, that all may at least note the benefits derived where proper, painstaking, worthy authorities exist.

1. *Edinburgh*.—"These (see Captain List's Report, issued for the county: October, 1856,) apply to houses which are much frequented by vagrants and trading beggars, who, when moving from town to town, often remain for several nights in these houses." He farther adds, "when this important statute came into operation, I caused notices to be served on all keepers of such common lodging-houses, since which time many have taken out the license, and others have discontinued keeping shops of that description. I anticipate the most beneficial results to arise from this Act. A new Inspector (Mr M'Pherson) has been appointed. Up to the present time this department has been self-supporting."

It appears clear to all who have studied sanitary matters, if they were heard and encouraged, that the manures, liquid and otherwise, allowed to go to waste in many places, arising from careless mismanagement and want of due superintendence by competent parties employed in such matters, would about pay in most cases

the expense of business Inspectors,—indeed, all expenses and more,—and render towns beautiful, clean, and healthy, besides add much to the fertility of our poor northern soil. Proper men, beyond local prejudice and bias, as passed only and approved of, say by the Board of Supervision (as at first contemplated under the Bill), it is thought by some (we having doubts of this, however), on careful review of what has passed, might cure current evils. Why not enforce these new simple plans, if such powers reserved, as some contend, under the 4th or 5th section of this Act? At all events the Privy Council, and the London Board of Health—parties we have more faith in—can at any time, by orders, as hereinafter shewn, secure the public health, and defend and protect honest, impartial men, stating true facts, when, by local interests, persecuted for so doing.

2. In *Glasgow*, “on paving the streets, Bailie Clouston, on moving the adoption of previous minutes, said it would be remembered that during the last session of Parliament a bill had passed, the above Act,—conferring considerable powers, as well as responsibilities, in connection with the paving of streets and other social matters. He believed he might say the streets of Glasgow were surpassed by none for appearance and convenience. But we are anxious to go a little farther with improvements, and it was now necessary to take steps for carrying out the Act, which had been obtained for such necessary purposes. The minutes were then approved of.—Nov. 1856.” Since then, much has been done in Glasgow in forwarding social and sanitary matters, the authorities and others applying to Parliament for farther local acts, in order to erect proper and well-aired houses and buildings for rich and poor (the labouring classes), and to pull down ruinous houses, and to erect roomy squares and streets, &c., put down drains and sewers, &c., for the public benefit. It is also well known that the respectable Press in Glasgow—ever anxious to forward the cause of improvement, such as we are advocating—are endeavouring to urge on the authorities in the right direction, in these depressed times, when it is thought by some, over-trading to keep up high prices, contrary to the principles of free trade, has produced, in the end, stagnation in business, and want of confidence in Banks, who may have gone too far with reckless, worldly men. We refer also to discussions going on in reforming papers, and to the views of the *Daily Express* on “paid and unpaid Magistrates”—a subject, we are glad to say, of paramount importance, if the legislature and the public are really serious in social sanitary reforms in Scotland.

We are doing what we can to aid them, in going minutely into

these local details,—places being examined on the spot,—with reference to the Nuisance Act, and usefulness of permanent Boards of Health,—a check, on authorities, issued in this separate form, that it may be the better circulated in towns here and in the South, among legislators and others, where cleanly habits encouraged, and men doing good in reforms taken notice of. As to the alleged drunken habits of the people in Glasgow, not worse than in other places, (nothing being yet done at head-quarters to give up creature comforts, &c.); perhaps, we apprehend, we don't mean to touch thereon here, but to keep to the subject on hand,—the filthy state of cities and towns, and what should be done to amend matters.

Now, we aver that many places in Glasgow and suburbs, in a horrid, dirty, unhealthy state, the poor, the fallen, the naked and hungry, in these bankrupt times, many children and others hanging about closes and corners in a miserable state, few seeming to care for them, more ragged schools,—and other places, with food,—of a reformatory social nature being called for them in the West. And here a word may be said regarding the great taste shewn, and expense lavished, by the big dons and merchants in their elegant and large mansions and villas, on the Clyde and other places,—even some of them living in noblemen's castles and fine seats. Surely when they have such love for comfort and cleanliness at home and abroad, they must have some feeling for the comfort of poor labourers and mechanics, as without them what would their capital and expensive works avail them?

3. *Stirling*.—In this town, rather a cleanly place and people, acting under the more enlightened views of the metropolis, aided, perhaps, by Dr. Rogers, a public spirited gentleman, who has been so active anent the Wallace Monument for their Castle-hill, the Town Council, the “local authority,” charged, in the first place, with the execution of the Nuisance Act, 1856, instead of selfishly allowing same to fall on the Parochial Board, only contemplated in absence of those formerly liable;—the Police and Municipal Boards, —after exercising the usual cautious delay (July 1857), “resolved to appoint an Inspector for the town and parish, a man who could devote his whole time to the work, as there was so much to do that no one of their number or officials could properly undertake it.” Accordingly, Mr. Henry Buchan, on the militia staff, a fit person, was appointed, who issued a special pointed notice of the five things specified under the word “nuisance,” (as given in the Appendix hereto, No. 1,) adding, “The Inspector is empowered to examine meat, fish,

fruit, and vegetables exposed to sale, and if any is unfit for food to seize it, and the person to whom the same belongs is liable in a penalty."

4—8. It may be here stated in a word, that almost similar resolutions had previously been come to by some other leading northern and western cities and towns in Scotland, such as Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, Ayr, and a few others unnecessary here to specify *ad longum*; even the Forfar Bailies, ever remembered for their sapient decision as to the case stated in Waverley of the cow drinking the malt at the ale-wife's door, standing, not sitting—therefore by ancient hospitality held as free, or *deoch an doruis*, or *stirrup-cup* (Feb., 1857), "by a majority of four, were of opinion that the Town Council ought to be invested with the local power to carry the provisions of the Act into execution." So much for cleanly places. We must now have liberty also to discuss dirty places, in order to bring Magistrates and other authorities, and the people, high and low, to a due sense of their responsible duties.

9. In *Campbeltown* (Nov., 1856), "Instructions have been given to the Dean-of-Guild's Committee, the Provost, and others, to consider the Nuisance Removal Act, and to report on its provisions at another meeting, the Provost stating he was glad that this important measure had become the law of the land, as formerly,—authorities wanted sufficiently stringent powers for the sanitary state of towns, in which remark the Dean-of-Guild concurred, hoping that ere long an able and active Inspector might be appointed, having a fitness for its somewhat novel enactments"—statements which promised well at first, where these worthy Magistrates, most of them successfully engaged in the profitable business of spirit distillation, pushed on under a party knowing all these things among them—for a time giving the "Sandy Campbell" bodies, "smoking Knockdunders" in the far West, some sound advice really much wanted in sanitary matters (though things considerably improved since 1853, after town inspected at that cholera time by the late Dr. Gavin, as sent by Government), not over-relished there, or in some other places; or perhaps calculated to bring out Donald's social qualities, rather urging him to depart out of their borders—an old swinish worldly injunction, more likely given for honest testimony, an auld native saying, "What, do you suppose that we'll ere be plagued with laws of this sort in our remote corner, when we have always, less or more, been free in such matters, and our predecessors, hundreds of years ago? It is all blethers." This threat, it seems, has been mainly made good, we are since informed

by a magistrate or councillor there, they having fallen into the hands of the Parochial Board, the "local authority," and thereafter appointed a person so acting for a great concern in other matters, to manage in their own way, less or more, the sanitary duties of the burgh also!

A sketch of this town in its ruinous, ugly, filthy, and miserable state, in 1856, now before us, beginning at the Castlehill Church and going on to Dalintober, might be instructive if called for. We reserve it and more comments for after use, if our information disputed, and if the above pledges by the Provost, Dean-of-Guild, and others not specially complied with in time to come, in terms of the Board of Health regulations after quoted and explained, for the benefit of the sufferers exposed to uncleanness, fever, disease, and death. It is well stated by way of general direction to all, as the opinion of the London Board of Health, with reference to cholera and epidemics, in Nov., 1853. "As none can state where or how sudden the pestilence may alight, it is the duty of the authorities to be prepared for any emergency before its arrival." And again, when cholera threatened, on 7 Sept., 1857, the Board of Health at Whitehall, in issuing special directions and orders of a stringent nature, thus concludes:—"It is possible that no human efforts may suffice to avert the course of that epidemic ferment which at certain intervals of time comes, as it were, to test the sufficiency of our sanitary defences. But public authorities armed with the existing powers of the law, can do almost everything to render the mysterious influences innocuous, by removing these local conditions through which alone it is enabled to destroy life in this climate."

"Local Boards may be well assured that if any precautions adopted by them against cholera should hereafter seem to have been even superfluous in relation to that epidemic—if the suggested possibility of a fourth visitation should happily not now be realised—the pains and cost which may have been given to sanitary improvements will in no degree have been wasted, since, undoubtedly, such exertions will have borne fruit in preventing other diseases, and in lessening both the misery, the expense, the waste of life and the waste of money, which are now the consequence of defective sanitary arrangements." What stated, and besides noted, of this town of Campbeltown throwing the above burdens on the Parochial Board—(this we will refer to again in its proper place, when speaking of Town Funds, and Land Rentals thereof; and how obtained and spent, when we have time)—with its ten or twelve thousand inhabitants, may be a warning to

other towns, of which we have as accurate facts as data to condescend on, showing that much has yet to be done in various places, such as,

10—31. In *Dundee*, *Broughty-ferry* (this place, under a virulent typhus fever, many people and two doctors cut off, in December, 1857, same might be said of some other places here mentioned and elsewhere, without Police Acts, such places without infirmaries or public charities), *Forfar*, *Brechin*, *Stonehaven*, *Paisley*, *Greenock*, *Neilston*, *Cumnock*, *Kilmarnock*, *Irvine*, *Dundonald*, *Galston*, *Girvan*, *Maybole*, *Riccarton*, *Saltcoats*, *Stranraer*, *Kilwinning*, *Stewarton*, *Newton-of-Ayr*, *St. Quivox*, *Tarbolton*, &c., where, as in Saltcoats, (here horrid nuisances exist, nothing doing in cleaning back places,) from 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, or two thousand inhabitants are suffering, less or more, from somewhat similar causes, and too long delays in carrying out the above wise laws, and that too in many places where excellent Police Acts have long been in existence (see Appendix, No. 2), and heavy police cleaning rates (proper paving and macadamising, &c., out of the question even in considerable towns unnecessary to name), under Commissioners—on rentals of £50,000 as in Kilmarnock, more in some places, and less in others—disregarded as much now as formerly, as the Lord Advocate's Nuisance Removal Act yet is, supplementary to all other Acts here and elsewhere specified,—amendments begun in various places,—small indeed. We may here say in passing that Mr. Craufurd, M.P., at his Campbeltown meeting in Nov., 1856, while speaking of the Nuisance Act, said “Two Head Inspectors had been appointed last Session to conduct certain enquiries under our Poor Law Act, referring among other things to this useful sanitary summary law.” What these gentlemen (some think more ornamental than useful) have been doing does not always appear in public; but they are generally willing to hear and consider things at head-quarters when put before them, which is sometimes more than can be said of local parties. (See Section 13 of the above Act. It refers only to one additional Member to the Board of Supervision.)

32—41. *Haddington*, &c.—“The Board of Supervision has determined.” (the wherefore has been already explained) “that the Parochial Board of the parish shall be the ‘local authority’ for executing the above Act within the limits of the parish; and the proposed rules and regulations for common lodging-houses are being submitted for the approval of the principal Secretaries of State.” Now, all this has a fair appearance, in this case, to them that do not consider our just views, not having been instructed therein, and other cases before us,

—such as Inveresk, Newburgh, Kerriemuir, Newtyle, Brechin, Dysart, Falkland, Fordoun, Bervie, &c., populous places,—in all directions where 5, 10, 20, 40, 70, and 100 delinquents have been pulled up, at one time, for neglecting the Aet. It is much better to comply in some way or other with the same,—in the first instance;—but it can easily be understood that Parochial Boards of large parishes of from 3, 5 to 10,000, 20,000, or 50,000 inhabitants, and their Inspectors of Poor, have too much on hand already to manage aright their own proper troublesome duties, without making them Inspectors, or head formal “snug birth” men, as Ministers are sometimes called, in this important social and sanitary affair. If this distinct averment should be disputed in any quarter, we can join issue with the party, having seen enough to confirm us in the justness of our views,—at least, in any question of sanitary reform,—while reform is a-going, we are entitled to canvass or debate the point before the public, our employers and main supporters in these our social, humble, well-meant labours for the benefit of all—the thankful and unthankful. If the Inspectors of Poor, or bustling police thief-catchers in towns,—evermore on the watch for other game,—carry out the spirit of the above Aet as we read it, having right instructions and aids to do so—which in Kilmarnock, Irvine, and many other large places, handed over to the Parochial Boards,—we shall be glad indeed; but, in the meantime, we must persevere in urging our sanitary social plans regarding the cleaning of towns in a proper and business-like manner—say as in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, &c.—hitherto, as shewn, made a mere mock of: hence Magistrates, less or more displaced from their own doings, considered at head-quarters, even now admitted by themselves,—as under this active summary law,—unworthy or unfit to be trusted with the health of town communities!

To proceed farther, and as briefly as possible, with some of our general facts and arguments—not being desirous to hurt the feelings of any town dignity, &c., perhaps from heedlessness less or more innocent from ascertained charges as to filth, now elsewhere heaped on them for safe ends,—we would put the case thus:—Any one that carefully considers this important subject—how dirty towns are, in at least some of their front streets, and in all their back premises, closes, entries, lanes, harbour, ballast, and other docks, &c., and how studded the roads and walks are around towns in Scotland with personal and other nuisance, as if clean habits were never inculcated by gentle or simple,—how defective, from want of necessary accommodation—and

reads the provisions of this comprehensive Act for the removal of nuisances, regulation of lodging-houses, and health of towns in Scotland, may soon concur in our views—certainly, we predict, not to be so easily complied with as some may imagine, under inapt, ignorant inspection! Where is the hardship or difficulty in keeping a town clean, any more than a house? We say dirtiness, in the sense we have been considering it, is not an affliction of Providence sent as a judgment on communities or people. Some person or persons are to blame. If we have careless magistrates, or other authorities, who are or have been hitherto intrusted with the safe state of towns, but have neglected the same—do not see right laws, as above pointed out, carried into effect—just as some men have slovenly wives, that may be a calamity; but then we have the former only for a time, and it is in our power to complain publicly of them, and we get free of them when their short term of office expires? Undoubtedly, in all cases of dirty towns coming under our observation—alas! too many,—the magistrates, police, or Poor-law Boards, the “local authorities” alone the parties to blame, either for not doing the duty themselves, or for not providing right faithful inspectors and workmen, devoting their time to their duties, instead of their shops or trades. These, like daily servants, can easily be procured if well paid and independently placed; but, then, if they have too much on hand—the general complaint even in Edinburgh,—and have to strike for proper wages, as in Dundee lately (April, 1857)—where salaries raised to high police officials, but only from 10s to 12s or so weekly given for hard-worked men, on long hours, about one-third less than what then paid to other labourers—the work cannot be well done, or the districts under their operations kept healthy and clean from daily, personal, and other nuisances, as in England. All this, and more, clearly instructed herein, and under the 1st and 2d reports of Dr. H. Johnston, as to filthy closses and lances, now under the consideration of the Edinburgh Town Council.

In some places in America the order by new magistrates, in that now rising country, different from dirty customs in other countries, to dirty people or streets is not to go wash and be clean,—a simple cure for obedient Christians in all ages; but it is, Come and I will wash you, and even shave you, and make you pay or work for it, so that dirtiness—an ugly, evil disease—is punished, as some think it ought to be, even at the loss of freedom! If selfish parties in social sanitary improvements,—proprietors in burghs who have fine houses, generally their own property or gifted to them, enclosed within

stately walls and railings—(other men, not on moderate pay now, apeing aristocratic, impartial silence, dwell generally in distant bowers away from Town smells, excepting only court calls and magnificent feasts)—wealth or interests, to intimidate local authorities from duly exacting sanitary duties, and even M.P.'s who cannot get into Parliament or remain in their seats without these worthies' votes, it is well that the facts should come out, that all evils of a serious nature outstanding, may be cured under farther municipal reforms certainly much wanted yet, when rich selfish men, with little learning in social communities, rule, or try to rule all matters before councils and boards with a rod of iron over their poorer brethren—simple timid bodies, and others, holding licenses, &c., under their nod—as much afraid of such as people were of the clergy and witches in olden times; the not conform to the world doctrine, and tests of same, all less or more in these mammon times—“*nuper abolit.*”

It would be an easy matter to enumerate more towns with authorities, &c., acting, or pretending to act, as such, without regard to Police Acts or the above Act, less or more hitherto; in fact, to disregard proper cleaning, before and since the Parochial Boards existed, under the Poor Law Act of 1845, and subsequent amendments, so that said Boards which thereby had, rather under usage than by statute, general orders from the London Board of Health, certain powers as to sanitary matters within their bounds, especially in cholera times, whether in town or country, have always hitherto been unwilling to interfere with Town Councils and Police Commissioners,—holding them not divested altogether, if it could be avoided,—unless in said cholera times,—when they were forced to it, under their parochial office, as coming in place of parish ministers, divested also by special Boards of Health, issued by Parliament or Privy Council. Candid Parochial Inspectors under said Act can testify as to the truth of these facts, and generally of all our averments, when not under the influence of indifferent civic, police, and other rule, which some of them unfortunately are!

To those who have carefully considered what we have adduced for the benefit of towns, and to make things clean and decent at all times, instead of relying on an annual dung-show or “mucking of Geordie's (or Victoria's) byre” in country towns—as if it were a comfort to have manures under nose and eye as long as possible—lasting for some weeks during potato planting, turnip sowing season—men who read mortality returns in large and small towns, where, in dirty districts, deaths from fevers and contagious diseases, much more preva-

lent there in clean places—take any country district you please, where air unpolluted as wanting dung deposits, and who have time, inclination, and aptness, to inspect minutely for the public good;—in short, such men as are now much wanted for town-cleaning Fiscal-Inspectorships, under this recent Act, can have no difficulty in pointing out what should be done. Proper staffs of paid inspectors wanted, independent men at all events, even strangers perhaps,—some English and some Irishmen,—such as about rather more than thirty years ago, had to be put into post-offices and stamp-offices in Edinburgh!—(sham, unpaid dignities won't do duty)—and right cleaners under them, not worn out, old, miserably paid men. Really many people brought up meanly in indifferent society and in shabby places, have or seem to have no true idea of what is included under cleanly fiscal regulations; for at their doors and in their gardens and back courts, far within the “50 yards” sanctioned by this judicious Act, all sorts of filth allowed to accumulate in towns and at harbours, and all ways, &c., constantly cumbersome, and seldom cleaned more than once a-year—if then, too shocking to be described; thousands of cart loads thus accumulated by old ugly customs, evidently causing fevers in towns not extant anywhere else, as many of our learned Physicians can testify. Of some called Drs. of diverse kinds, we doubt their soundness, &c., in such matters. The same may be said of public privies—even much worse—more, if made clean, being much wanted—no person, even street cleaners or others employed, ever having from civic rulers, &c., orders statedly, or at any time, to clean them, dreading expenses, as County authorities see—Irishmen, hearty fellows—doing most of our cleaning work, ever ready to serve us, on moderate pay. In some places neither contractors' carts or horses, employed to remove nuisances hitherto; but filth just allowed to stagnate in towns—may be part of it pushed aside to a corner by a man with a barrow,—where it may remain for weeks and months,—(much worse than in Campbeltown, where certain parts go to a distant depot for public sale, as in other towns), till feuars or farmers please to come for same, and that too where town rentals of properties are high, and burgh property lands worth thousands of pounds annually! These things humourously alluded to, and confirmed by Galt in his works or novels referring, it is understood, to Ayrshire, assuredly no fiction; still, the Earl's visitor, when living near the Castle, old or new, where pure air abounds, health and social comfort (why should not this be in towns too?) having been nearly lost in midden or dung heaps in the dark! A poor woman also had

her arm broken lately, having fallen on some such dung heaps, or filthy obstructions on the public highway, the harbour-master being under threat or prosecution for said conduct, &c. Some modern writers, Temperance Professors, urge drunken habits as the cause of "Scottish filth"—older writers again blame custom, prescription, or vested interest, according also to the old wife's saying, "the clattier the cosier!"

It is unpleasant to have to state these things of one's country, and especially to refer to Burns's favourite town, Kilmarnock, or Old Killie, as he called it,—thought by many, and admitted even by West country people, to beat all other towns, less or more, for filth, in its back parts and unventilated houses; but really some one must testify truly, and the gleaner hereof, who has wandered many a weary foot unpaid, unthanked, and persecuted, &c., is certain he will be protected in future, and found in the main right in his statements in these important matters: some official persons from London having lately, along with him, examined a few of the places there alluded to. It would have been a far more agreeable task for him to enumerate some of the very few pretty towns and watering places in Scotland, with sanitary matters about complete. These are scarcely to be found. One particularly neat and clean village does exist in East Lothian—Dirleton—long very attractive in the late Mrs Ferguson's time, and since, so much so that noblemen and gentlemen often resolved to set down such places on their estates. The late Lord Wharncliffe did try in some respects such a collection of houses, in neat formed streets, stone and slated, in the parish and village of Newtyle, Forfarshire; but he soon found, as also his successor, it was next to impossible to get his feuars and tenants to comply with their conditions—even in writing, as to sanitary matters, pigs and all manner of filth—in time accumulating, as in other old villages, ever to be found too often in poor Scotland. The late Robert Forsyth, Advocate, when a young man, put out a book, not a few have heard of, on the "Beauties of Scotland." Some think this work fully more "Necessary." To enter Town Accommodations, such as above alluded to,—they are too bad to be described,—generally in a horrid state in local districts,—seldom, if ever, lighted at night, one might as well be expected to enter a coal pit; hence so many dirty out and way places! What have our Bailies to say to this,—aye even in Ayr, the place last visited?

Some wiseacres pretend to make game at the above Act, it they say giving the "local authority" wholly, or in part, discretionary.

powers in regard to Inspectors of their own appointing, taking such characters as towns have—(kith and kin gentry)—that only Fiscal Acts for Government duties under Excisemen strictly acted on; as the Provosts of Burghs, and their M.P.'s rather did the Lord Advocate, it is thought, in obtaining some alteration in the Bill for said Act, at or after its second reading, leaving out, as some thought, a salutary power which had been first inserted therein, and which now wanting (parties objecting to centralization, &c.) in some substantial points the cloven foot appears, which gave the Board of Supervision at Edinburgh, as in the Poor Law and Prison Acts, a full controlling power to act over all other local boards or authorities in appointing or approving of their Inspectors and other Officers, that duties seen properly done. Unfortunately, that power being somewhat modified, it seems local jobbers are, if not publicly cautioned and looked after, likely to make a sham of important sanitary duties! With these particulars and hints, and having from experience still little faith in Town authorities and others so heedless, as shewn of social sanitary improvements and consequences thereof, perhaps it is not now necessary to say much more, only these questions may be put in some quarters where little if anything doing by whoever are held to be the "local authority." 1st, Is this Act to be carried into effect, yea or nay, by appointing *bona fide* Inspectors at open public meetings—not managed less or more in limited party committees and clubs—(see section 7 of Nuisances Act, appendix, No. 8)—with aptness and have their whole time, or due time, and right pay to do daily duty, in other Towns and Counties beyond Ediuburgh, or some other places, where some fairly and considerably appointed: or, 2nd, Is this Act to be evaded and not held to be sufficient for social and sanitary improvements, but must the cleanly inhabitants of towns, and the humble poor, who pay heavy police and sanitary taxes, submit to continued current dirty customs, where obstinate rulers will not stir or execute right clean reforms, until the Lord Advocate obtain more stringent Police Acts, under County Police Inspection, &c., anent nuisances, with permanent boards of health and apt occasional surveyors—free from local or party bias, and thus cure matters on the spot, say under Stipendary Boards—to visit districts. Many think that the general local Police, ever on the watch, might aid much to enforce cleanliness in towns, or at all events in small places, villages and hamlets looking pretty when viewed at a distance, as described by Dr. Chalmers in his truly eloquent sermon "On

the Restlessness of Human Ambition," "O that I had wings like a dove, &c."; but when approached contaminated by all sorts of filth and stench, the pompous, unpaid Magistrate rule, being perhaps doomed to go down in these social times unless they soon change for the better—many considerate parties agreeing they have been weighed in the balance long ago and found, even since reforming times, generally wanting. Some amendments, certainly going on, but until parties' eyes open to such sad evils, everywhere existing, little effectual will be done! If it can be proved, as many think it can, as long alleged of our country, that dirty customs hitherto arose chiefly from civic mismanagement, it may be well it can be done under such proof as this Act, referring specially not so much to front streets, always less or more clean by old usage as some people's faces may be; but to every dirty back-place, lane, close, or entry, in almost every town or village of the land called Scotland. Some places, even Royal Burghs, might properly be called "dung deposits" rather than clean healthy safe towns—at least in their back premises, as remarked by our London friends on minute inspection. Places might be specially condoned on if not enough shewn as above. It may, perhaps, be fortunate any way that legal professional rulers—Secretaries of State and Boards of Health, in the south—who can see far, may be fully a match for any set of obstinate persons, to allow them for a time to fall into their own traps, to convince the public mind—that stringent measures beyond local indifference, if not something worse, ultimately necessary actually—do withdraw powers from corporations (formerly undertaking to clean towns and alleging they were doing so, here proved not to be the case except in a few instances partly above alluded to), or amend and reform them, when they have shamefully ceased to regard the true and safe wants of communities spending the public money too often in useless whims, feasts, and revengeful expensive law pleas!

To shew that many of our views and charges suspected to be correct, if not entertained in high quarters, we shall conclude by quoting one or two notices by leading Noblemen in the House of Lords, in summer 1857, anent the necessity of the Towns Smoke Bill, since become the law of the land in Scotland. *Lord Campbell*—"There was no doubt this Bill recommended itself to that of which his countrymen were fond—economy,—for the smoke was the unignited part of the fuel, and was so much loss. All that was wanted was a little vigour in the administration of the law." *Lord Ravens-*

worth—"The chief creators of the nuisance were the persons who appointed Inspectors in this and other Nuisance Acts, and who would have to deal, less or more, on any complaint which sufferers might have to bring. Vigorous measures must be taken to suppress these serious growing evils." *Lord Redesdale*—"I think the provisions in this Bill with regard to informations defective. It must be made more stringent in Committee. The duty appears to devolve on three parties, and experience showed that where three local parties had to discharge a duty it was never well done. There should be a general law passed for the effectual punishment of persons,—whoever they may be, neglecting or jobbing sanitary matters."

Note.—The consideration of Social and Sanitary Reform is a favourite subject among learned Metropolitan Physicians. They have some chance of making impressions on their civic authorities when they are seeing it their duty, as learned gentlemen, to act under the Nuisances Removal Act, 1856. It is generally asserted by the press there, deccrning impartial witnesses, that even in Edinburgh "a dull and apathetic content prevails, which is probably more hostile to sanitary reform than any question of expense." Dr. H. Johnston thinks "that active apt Nuisance Inspectors should, ere long, compel the public to look the evils, still outstanding, in the face, and that amelioration may be at hand." Dr. Gairdner again recommends "to the Edinburgh Police and Nuisance Inspectors to have a permanent committee of vigilance, to watch the spread of epidemic diseases, and to bring home to municipal authorities and others, and, also, to the inhabitants of epidemic localities, the facts pending, not as seen in the light of theory, and discussed by medical men, but as arising from actual experience and observation on the spot, the poor being less or more shut out from channels of sanitary instruction." They also refer to the proceedings now in hand, under the National Association in England, for promotion of social science, of which Lord Brougham is president. Now, our object has been, for these several years, to watch matters, and rouse parties, if possible, in local districts where less confessedly done than in large cities, and to submit such facts for information and guidance as we could obtain on the spot, tending to account for the apathy everywhere existing. The poorer classes have latterly, without fear or dread, urged on us their wish to have the state of the law impartially explained to

them in a book, complaining bitterly of the haughtiness, if not tyranny, of Town Council authorities in small places, &c. We have no great fear of any party, having stated nothing but facts (perhaps rather in the George Buchanan style), the disinterested public are sensible of, and can establish, as seen too by public men in power, elsewhere, beyond civic threat or rule. Facts come out on examining the simple, aye and time serving, which should be disclosed to all parties, many insisting for true reforms in these matters. By old custom, in Burghs and Towns, the Magistrates and Bailies exercised, by their own regulations more than by Statute or Police Acts, certain sanitary powers as against the inhabitants, such as making them clean back places occasionally, as before shewn. It so happened, as hinted at by House of Lords Legislators, that authorities did not execute on their own properties what they sometimes imposed on others in sanitary cleaning jobs, unless it suited their own convenience. Poor people are not always so stupid as some imagine. Many cases have been mentioned, which we can enumerate, places might be given too, and names, if necessary, as coming under our observation. On asking decent provision dealers and others—male and female—the reason of so much filth being harboured about their back premises, answers were made such as these: “Oh! sir, we are tenants of the Bailies, and the dung he keeps for his braw farm. No one can order him, though God knows he does order us.” At all events it has always been so here in the west. The poor never buy acts of Parliament, they therefore were unacquainted with the Nuisances Act, though by this time nearly a year had elapsed since it passed in July, 1856. Others again complain thus: “Are you going to take away our dung or manure, from our back premises, which we formerly required to give to farmers in exchange for land to plant potatoes in?” Another set said in despair: “If you take down the houses for our pigs, and remove our dung-middens, our prospects will be dark indeed; yet for years the difficulty of obtaining land from laird and farmer, in these times, has been so great that you and the bailies, &c., may do what you please with us, dung and all.” Hence we have been able to open channels of social and sanitary information, in most cases now handed over to others, generally parochial boards, thus, less or more, freeing us from mighty town authorities, waiting in vain to snap at us if we had not cautiously, on reform princi-

ples, been fit for them. It is certain that these men, who have so much business of their own on hand,—in banks, farms, shops, &c.,—cannot properly attend to the public interest, being also unpaid. These, our views, and as to obtaining stipendary magistrates or servants in time, are now beginning to be seen, if not known, in certain quarters where, until lately, it was not very safe to urge reforms of any kind. But new County Police Acts, particularly the act passed in August 1857, and the smoke act at same time, already alluded to, by supreme judges, in a manner divests town dignities less or more. These things felt a great relief to many social clean persons liked to be smoked, &c., out of all comfort by rich merchants and mining gentry, chiefly in the west, who look on sanitary reform, if it is to touch their pockets or their ill-constructed vents or stalks, as mere conceits or crotchets. Others,—lords, lairds, lawyers, aye, and some honest ministers,—think better of these laws acting above all party work, saying of our humble labourers, “we are glad to find you are so laudably and usefully employed.” “The subject on hand is one in which the clergy take a deep interest, and should commend itself to every benevolent and patriotic mind. It is high time to look on each other as children of the same father, objects of the same care, and destined to fulfil the ends of a happy existence,” &c. Many people are apt to complain of such laws, centralisation, &c., objections to the latter meaning, perhaps, local jealousy that some of their jobs or ways above hinted at should be brought to light. That is a vain delusion, some patriotic men not being blind to their work, or afraid of their wrathful attempts, even though aided by a beggarly local press, partly upheld, in a small way, with their patronage, printing, &c. One word more and we have done. When the County Police were at first introduced a sad outcry by some was made against them, more especially at the expense, but landed gentlemen soon saw their error. The County Police in Scotland have been a great boon to many, and, what is more, has proved, where independent parties are employed, as generally is the case, a safe protection to men doing public good, they daily attending to one sort of engagement, seeing those who act in a useful manner, whether profitably employed or otherwise. It is odd that, even in this free country, persecution for just reform, is the lot of all who seek them truly. The country recover more property—formerly nearly all lost—by the active exertions of

the county police, than would pay their police establishments three times over, besides greatly lessening crime and former expenses thereof, saving too from £200 to £300 to the public, formerly incurred in hanging every murderer, robber, or thief! The length of these papers have increased considerably in our hands, but we could not curtail them, finding minute, sometimes painful, statement requisite, and even defensive matter broached, absolutely necessary for saving person and character, &c. We can safely aver we have no ill feeling against a human being. It is absurd to think so, "You have no interest, their bairns or relations, some say, get all." We don't dispute this. We are not seeking pay or favours from dignities of any kind. Employment is, perhaps, out of the question, at least in country places, with our views, as we have shown, on sanitary matters, &c. We have not wandered from the subject, remembering the old proverb, "*Ne sutor ultra crepidam.*"

A. KENNEDY, *W.S.*

APPENDIX.

No. I.—*Excerpt from "Nuisance Removal Act, 1856."*

"Part 1st, Section 8th, The word Nuisance under this Act shall include,"

(A) Any insufficiency of size, defect of structure, want of repairs, or other matter or circumstance rendering any inhabited house building or part thereof unwholesome or unfit for human habitation."

(B) "Any pool, water course, ditch, gutter, drain, privy, urinal, cess-pool, ash pit, so foul as to be injurious to health."

(C) "Any animal so kept as to be injurious to health."

(D) Any accumulation or deposit within 50 yards of any dwelling house within the limits of any Burgh, or offensive or injurious to health."

(E) "Any work, manufactory, trade, or business offensive or injurious to the health of neighbourhood."

N.B.—Business to be done by competent Inspectors, under the Act, legal procedure when required, vested in the local Sheriffs and Procurator Fiscals."—A. K.

No. II.—*"Excerpt from the Kilmarnock Police Act, 10th and 11th Victoria, Session 1847.*

"Section 37.—Possessors to clean foot pavements." "And it is hereby enacted that every person who shall inhabit or possess the ground floor of any shop or building fronting the foot pavement, shall cause the same, along the front of their respective houses, shops, or buildings to be swept, scraped, and cleaned, at least once every lawful day before the hour of Ten in the forenoon, &c., &c.,—penalty, 2s 6d each offence, &c."

Note 1st.—Even this simple and reasonable order—same as in local police acts elsewhere—hitherto at least too seldom complied with in old Killy, as impartial persons can testify, the Dames and others being enraged when pulled up for dirty customs. To speak of their back places and dung middens, &c., "*e'en more horrible and awfu,*" would be a sad offence in their eyes. The filth in and about this town, still without what we call—say powerful first-class society—Nuisance Inspection, thought by many to be much neglected hitherto, by authorities of town and police &c., though in the views and local

habits of many of its inhabitants dirt and ill-aired houses, an old storey, less or more ineurable, as complained of by letters of Cromwell's soldiers extant, rather more than 200 years ago, as antiquarians testify—same as by General Monk's army, when in Dundee about 1651, another dirty place, like most of the Forfar and Kineardineshire towns—all, however, less or more subject to treatment to remove filth of every description under the above Act. We hope things may improve under strict and honest labours to do good; and that they may mend, "aye, like sour ale in summer," as Davie Gallatly said. At the election of a young man, who got the Inspectorship of Nuisances here, as some think only for a short time, to suit other "snug birth" places, a minister suggested, although he had actually proposed said young man, that £100 would be required, instead of £50 then given, "to a person able to conduct correspondence, &c., and to have a greater degree of intercourse with society, and to belong to a higher class than they had got,"—an odd compliment to his protegee!—A. K.

No. III.—"*Excerpt from Dr Southwood Smith's Report to the Poor Law Commissioners, &c.*"

"The exhalations which accumulate in close ill-ventilated and crowded apartments in the confined situations of cities and towns where no attention is paid to the removal of putrifying and excrementitious substances, consist chiefly of animal matter. Such exhalations contain a poison which produces fever of the typhoid character. There are situations in which the poison, generated, is so intense and deadly that a single inspiration of it is capable of producing instantaneous death; there are others in which a few inspirations of it are capable of destroying life in from two to twelve hours. Hence so many typhus and other fevers in the filthy, close, unventilated, damp, undrained habitations of the poor in towns—the ill air generally there is too potent to be long breathed even by the most healthy and robust, without dangerous and mortal consequences. About half of the cases of fever occur in the prime of life, when people are, or should be, of most value to their families and society. All pestilential abodes form a very heavy tax on the industry of the country. It is commonly computed, of the total number of deaths that take place annually over the whole surface of the globe, nearly one-half is caused by fever in its different forms; to this sum may be added the number who perish by diseases caused by the constant operation of the poison."—*Evidence of the Physician of the London Fever Hospital.*

No. IV.—"*Excerpts from Report of Dr. Lathely, Medical Officer of Health to the Sanitary Commissioners of Sewers, London. April, 1857.*"

After mentioning the increase in the mortality, the Dr. states "that he

has been at much pains these last three months to ascertain the precise condition of the dwellings, the habits, and the diseases of the poor. The general result is, that nearly all of them are filthy, or overerowed, or imperfectly drained, or badly ventilated, or out of repair, &c.,—where all the offices of nature are performed in the most shocking manner, &c. These rooms are let from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. per week (as in other places even less, in Towns in Scotland; and, 2d or 3d, a night in crowded, ill-ventilated lodging-houses which we have examined), and they are wretchedly dirty, and miserably furnished; in fact, they are infested with that peculiarly fusty and sickening smell which is characteristic of the filthy haunts of poverty. There also lurk the germs of fever, epidemics, and other infectious diseases, which often get the mastery of medical skill, and almost decimate the population, rendering the heart hopeless, and spreading the seeds of crime," &c.

No. V.—*Excerpts from the Works of George Nicholls, Esq., on Health, &c.*

"With respect to habitations, much might generally be done for increasing their comfort and convenience, as well as rendering them more healthful, you should carefully avoid having any stagnant pools about your dwellings. The exhalations from collections of dung, vegetable, and other matter in progress of putrefaction, are at all times pernicious, especially in hot weather, inducing fever and other illness. The ground immediately around the house should be drained, and kept as dry as possible, and the manure and offal of every kind should be removed to such a distance that no offensive exhalation may reach your dwelling. The rooms to be kept dry and clean in every part, and walls white-washed when required, and duly ventilated, especially in the morning, when doors and windows must be opened, and the fresh air freely admitted. In case of illness—particularly fever—this is of the greatest importance: for without such precaution, infectious fever is sure to spread and attack every one within its reach."

Note 2d.—Experienced builders report that all old buildings in towns with sunk floors, many of them several feet under level of streets without drainage, damp, unhealthy, and generally incurable; and that sooner or later stringent measures or laws will require to be obtained to have old houses taken down, if healthy, social, sanitary plans to be adopted for the safety of the public, with our permanent Board of Health in constant operation. Mr Erskine, in his principles, p. 45 (Professor More's edition), speaking of Burghs and Dean-of-Guild, says—'He may direct insufficient houses to be pulled down.' This too seldom acted on in time—old ruins yearly, in many places, falling down, killing many poor people.—A. K.

No VI.—*Plain advice to all under any visitation of the Cholera, &c., &c.*
Issued in 1853.

1. Conform to and assist every measure of prevention or remedy put in operation by the local authorities; for such measures are founded upon knowledge and experience, and are enforced by the direction of Government for the public good. If you sustain inconvenience, or apprehend danger, from any public nuisance, immediately complain, either to your local board of health, your town-council, or your board of guardians, as the case may be, either of whom are fully empowered to enforce a remedy.

2. Apply yourself, as far as lies in your power, to render the chief duties of parochial and other public officers unnecessary, inasmuch as regards your own home, by the instant removal of every nuisance about it and in it.

3. It is the special duty of the authorities at all times, but imperatively so now, to have all streets, alleys, and courts daily cleansed. But it is your duty to throw no refuse into the streets, nor to collect any in your back premises. Have no dung heaps, no ash heaps. Keep no pigs in close places. Make the scavenger and the dustman take away whatever is annoying. Have no sloppy holes in your areas or back-yards, but get them paved or levelled. Insist upon your landlord making your house water-tight. See that your windows will open and shut, so as to admit air and exclude moisture. Every epidemic, whether fever or cholera, rages amid dirt and damp, and where there are stinking kennels and open ditches, foul and dead animals and decayed vegetables. Avoid all such places to dwell in; and make your children, when they go out, avoid all bad-smelling places.

4. Look to the inside of your dwelling, as well as the outside, to get rid of nuisances. Are the walls and ceilings dirty or mouldy? At the cost of a shilling or two, they may be lime-whited. This has been found one of the most effectual preventatives of cholera. Avoid, if possible, crowding your sleeping-rooms. If there is a chimney in a bedroom, keep it open, and have no chimney-board, or chest of drawers, to stop it up. It would be good to make a hole three or four inches square, near the ceiling, into the chimney—a very easy ventilator. Get pure air into your rooms by every possible means, and get rid of the foul air in the most effectual manner. If there is a constant offensive smell within your dwelling, which other people as well as yourself notice, be sure that there is danger at hand; and never rest till you have ascertained the cause, and have got it removed, as far as possible. Complain to the landlord; if he neglects you, complain to those who have to enforce “The Nuisances Removal Act.” If you cannot get the nuisance removed, you ought to prepare to remove from the nuisance. If you go to other lodgings or houses, go to

those where there has been no fever. There are houses with no fault of construction, that are always disagreeable to the senses. They are the abodes of sluttishness—the forerunner of disease. The person is seldom clean when a dwelling is dirty. Personal cleanliness and house-cleanliness are both health-givers, and are of vital importance when the elements of disease and death are around us.

5. This advice, with regard to your dwelling, assumes that you live in a populous town; but the principles on which the advice is founded hold good, whether you dwell in a village, or even in a lone cottage. All places, it is to be feared, have their nuisances. If there is a dung heap at your threshold, remove it to a distance. If a foul ditch, or cesspool, stir yourself to have a change. If the pigsty is offensive, cleanse and wash it daily. Have no poultry or rabbits within doors. In a word, get dirt and damp away from your house and out of your house, and get pure air into it. Be clean yourself, and have everything clean about you.

6. Having looked to your dwelling within and without, consider what is best for your welfare as to food and clothing. Whenever cholera is present in a locality, there is a general tendency to irritation of bowels; and warm clothing and wholesome food are more than ever necessary. These, happily, are within the reach of the great body of the people. The extreme poor must be righteously cared for in these respects out of the abundance of the more fortunate; but all have it in their power to avoid what is hurtful. Avoid cold; but make yourself strong by exercise in the open air, if your employment is within doors. The same duty of exercise applies to all your family, male and female. If there is any food or drink injurious at ordinary times, it is doubly injurious when there is pestilence in the atmosphere. Be very careful not to drink impure water; and take heed that wells are not polluted, and that water-butts and cisterns are kept cleansed. Spend less money on beer and other drinks, and spend more on flannel and coals.

7. The following personal precautions against cholera proceed from the General Board of Health, London:—

“Cholera is not so suddenly fatal as is supposed; it comes on with looseness of bowel complaint, which goes on for some hours, or even for a day or two. There is often no pain; but no one must be put off his guard by this circumstance, but must immediately, when purging comes on, apply for proper medicine, by which the disease is usually stopped. Where cholera is prevalent in a district, the neglect of this caution for a few hours may be fatal.

“Cholera is often brought on by improper diet. Tainted meat and fish, and damaged vegetables, should be carefully avoided.

“Cholera is often brought on by excess even of wholesome food. Tho

greatest moderation should be practised both in meats and drinks, always avoiding long fasting. Ardent spirits should be taken only under medical advice; drunkards always suffer most.

"Cholera is often brought on by cold. Wet clothes should be immediately changed; the feet especially should be kept warm and dry. The most violent attacks often come on immediately after incautious exposure to damp foggy night air."

8. If an attack, even the slightest, should come on in your household, you must immediately apply for medical assistance. Arrangements will be made in every locality to render such assistance promptly and effectually: there is no disease which can be more readily met with than cholera in its first or premonitory stage. In cases of diarrhœa, or looseness of bowels, the following medicine is recommended by the Board of Health; but avoid, if you can, exercising your own judgment in giving medicine at all:—"Twenty grains of opiate confection, mixed with two table spoonfuls of peppermint-water, or with a little weak brandy-and-water, and repeated every three or four hours, or oftener, if the attack is severe. Half the quantity to persons under fifteen; smaller doses to children.

9. If the disease assume a violent form before help can be obtained, put the sufferer into a warm bed, apply bottles of hot water, or heated flannel, to the stomach and feet, and along the spine. A dessert spoonful of brandy may be given from time to time in hot water. Constant friction with flannel dipped in hot vinegar is recommended, as well as the application of a vinegar and mustard poultice over the belly. A prudent person will have the necessary articles at hand; but promptitude in getting assistance is the first duty. By night or by day, send for the doctor; and such is the zeal of the medical profession, that the humblest person will not send in vain.

10. If any of the evil habits and neglects referred to in this advice exist in yourself or your family, begin to alter such habits and avoid such neglects without an hour's delay. The desired change to enable you to meet this epidemic disease is good for every other; and an immediate preparation may save a vast amount of misery. The condition of the human body cannot be altered at once, but the practices which tend to an evil condition may be instantly changed. In days you may effect a change which you cannot effect in hours.

11. Whether the disease of cholera come into your household or you be spared, keep up your spirits; have no vain fears; relax no industry; shrink not from assisting your neighbours; and put your trust in Him in whose hands are the issues of life and death.

No. VII.—*Cure for Cholera.*

RECIPE BY SIR JAMES CLARKE.—The following specific, which was issued on the authority of Sir James Clarke, the Queen's physician, at the

time when the scourge formerly prevailed in this country, and to which particular attention was called by the Parochial Board of Greenock, may again be useful. It was exceedingly successful in numerous cases, especially at Liverpool:—3 drachms spirit of camphor. 3 drachms laudanum. 3 drachms oil of turpentine. 30 drops of peppermint. For diarrhœa—a tea-spoonful in a glass of brandy and water. For cholera—a table-spoonful in a glass of brandy and water. The above dose is for an adult—smaller quantities, according to age, for children.

NO VIII.—*Farther excerpt from Nuisances Removal Act, 1856. "Local authority to appoint Sanitary Inspectors."*

Section 7.—"The local authority may, where it shall be thought necessary for the purposes of this act, appoint an Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances, and an Inspector or Inspectors of Lodging Houses, and shall make byelaws for regulating the duties of such Inspectors, and shall appoint convenient places for their offices, and shall allow to every such Inspector an account of his employment or proper salary."

Note 3d.—Of course any one must see this means an open honest election, no hole or corner junto committee meeting, having any warrant by the act to select a favourite candidate, and dictate to others afterwards thus, "the committee were only to select the five, out of the 19, whom they considered the best qualified." No power of such deligation under the act.

A KENNEDY, W.S.

N.B—Sold by Author alone, at Ayr and other places, to be visited, &c., by him.

